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Occupational Employment and Wages in Albany — May 2016

Workers in the Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $20.63 in May 2016, about 14 percent below the nationwide average of $23.86, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 10 of the 22 major occupational groups, including management; computer and mathematical; and legal. Two groups had significantly higher wages than their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including production; transportation and material moving; and personal care and service. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations; computer and mathematical; and sales and related. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Albany	United States	Albany	Percent difference (1)
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	$23.86	$20.63*	-14
Management	5.1	4.5*	56.74	42.21*	-26
Business and financial operations	5.2	2.4*	36.09	28.20*	-22
Computer and mathematical	3.0	0.7*	42.25	29.18*	-31
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.5*	40.53	34.50*	-15
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6*	35.06	32.64*	-7
Community and social service	1.4	1.7*	22.69	21.85*	-4
Legal	0.8	0.2*	50.95	40.49*	-21
Education, training, and library	6.2	7.3*	26.21	26.30	0
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	0.9*	28.07	18.35*	-35
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	3.9*	38.06	41.43	9
Healthcare support	2.9	3.5*	14.65	15.41*	5
Protective service	2.4	1.9	22.03	22.84	4
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	8.5	11.47	11.53	1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.4	13.47	13.54	1
Personal care and service	3.2	5.3*	12.74	12.73	0
Sales and related	10.4	8.3*	19.50	16.41*	-16
Office and administrative support	15.7	13.9*	17.91	17.07*	-5
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	1.3*	13.37	19.01*	42
Construction and extraction	4.0	4.4	23.51	24.23	3
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.4	22.45	23.22	3
Production	6.5	10.7*	17.88	19.07	7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Albany	United States	Albany	Percent difference (1)
Transportation and material moving	6.9	10.7*	17.34	16.69	-4

Footnotes:
(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.
* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Albany had 4,580 jobs in production, accounting for 10.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $19.07, compared to the national wage of $17.88.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (310), first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (290), and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers (190). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, and metal-refining furnace operators and tenders, with mean hourly wages of $28.86 and $25.94, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers ($10.84) and wood sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders ($13.55). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2016/may/oes_10540.htm .)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See table 1.) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, metal-refining furnace operators and tenders were employed at 18.2 times the national rate in Albany, and sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood, at 9.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, helpers of production workers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Albany, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Oregon Employment Department.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 650 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), metropolitan divisions, nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industry levels, and national estimates by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 sampled establishments are contacted, one panel in May and the other in November. Responses are obtained by mail, Internet or other electronic means, email, telephone, or personal visit. The May 2016 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, and November 2013. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 73 percent based on establishments and 69 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area included 753 establishments with a response rate of 76 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2016 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Albany, Ore. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Linn County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/west. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request . Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016

Occupation [1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [2]	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Production occupations	4,580	1.7	$19.07	$39,660
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	290	1.6	28.86	60,030
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	100	1.5	14.14	29,400
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	100	4.2	18.98	39,480
Team assemblers	[5]	[5]	15.24	31,690
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	460	6.6	13.63	28,350
Bakers	60	1.1	14.71	30,590
Butchers and meat cutters	50	1.1	17.88	37,200
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	50	1.2	18.95	39,420
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	6.3	23.37	48,610
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.8	19.61	40,790
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	140	6.2	19.33	40,210
Machinists	180	1.6	24.61	51,180
Metal-refining furnace operators and tenders	100	18.2	25.94	53,950
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	130	2.9	19.00	39,520
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	190	1.6	21.52	44,760
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	30	5.3	23.65	49,190
Metal workers and plastic workers, all other	80	11.1	28.09	58,440
Printing press operators	30	0.7	18.48	38,430
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	50	0.8	10.84	22,550
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	40	1.4	18.70	38,900
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	150	9.6	13.55	28,190
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	40	1.6	17.05	35,460
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	40	3.8	24.79	51,570
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	50	1.4	24.52	51,010
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	40	1.8	24.86	51,710
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	50	1.3	19.27	40,090
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	40	1.9	20.77	43,190
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	310	2.0	21.08	43,840
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	90	0.8	16.05	33,380
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	30	1.2	16.57	34,470
Helpers--production workers	130	1.0	15.58	32,420
Production workers, all other	290	3.8	18.23	37,910

Footnotes:
(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_10540.htm
(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.
(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.
(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.
(5) Estimate not released.